

and responsible housing for Indians and other native Americans throughout this country.

To say that the time has come for legislation like H.R. 3219 is to indulge in understatement. For far too long native Americans have been required to look to the U.S. Government—especially HUD, for direction and funding in the essential area of housing. Passage of H.R. 3219 will enable Native Alaskans and other native Americans to become responsible for their own housing decisions.

Mr. President, I am particularly proud of the fact that Ms. Jackie Johnson, a Tlingit from Juneau, AK, who is Chair of the National American Indian Housing Council, played such an important role in the initiation and development of this historic legislation. Ms. Johnson has poured an enormous amount of work into this effort as has the entire National American Indian Housing Council. I also want to thank members of the Association of Alaska Housing Authorities and its president, Kristian N. Anderson, all of whom contributed so much toward the development of this legislation. All these fine Alaskans have reason to be proud.

I am hopeful, Mr. President, that passage of H.R. 3219 will mark the beginning of a new era in native and Indian Housing that is responsive and responsible—and most importantly, by and for native Americans.

Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, today the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act, H.R. 3219, will pass the Senate. I would like to enter into a short colloquy with Senator MACK, the subcommittee chairman of the Subcommittee on Housing Opportunity and Community Development.

In Nevada, there are a number of small Indian tribes which are very dependent upon the funding they receive from Department of Housing and Urban Development for their local housing programs. Under this bill, the funding for native American housing assistance will be provided to tribes through block grants for operation, modernization, and new development through a new funding formula. For fiscal year 1997, this legislation provides for hold harmless funding for small tribes like those in Nevada. During fiscal year 1997, the tribes will work with HUD through a negotiated rulemaking procedure to implement this act, and develop the funding allocation.

Tribes in my home State have raised concerns that the current hold harmless provision might disadvantage small tribes that received no modernization funding in fiscal year 1996, and that a technical correction may be necessary to ensure their funding level is indeed held harmless.

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, as the Senator from Nevada stated, H.R. 3219 includes language to specifically require the allocation formula will provide for the continuing operation and modernization needs of existing hous-

ing units. This provision is to hold harmless all native American housing authorities or tribes from unanticipated consequences of a new formula, while the tribes are guaranteed the opportunity to participate in determining the funding allocation through negotiated rulemaking with HUD.

If a technical correction is needed to ensure that small tribes and Indian housing authorities are held harmless during this negotiated rulemaking process, I will work with the Senator from Nevada to seek such correction early in the next Congress.

Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, I appreciate the willingness of the Senator from Florida to deal with this issue expeditiously in the next Congress, if it is necessary to ensure that tribes which might be negatively affected by this bill will have their concerns addressed.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at the appropriate point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3219) was deemed read a third time, and passed.

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a bill to the desk in behalf of Senators STEVENS and MOYNIHAN, and I ask that it be considered and agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2198) to extend the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations and correct the enrollment of a bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this is a bill to extend the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations and correct the enrollment of that bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the leader's request is agreed to.

The bill (S. 2198) was deemed read a third time, and passed, as follows:

SEC. . (a) Notwithstanding the provision under the heading "ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS" under title IV of the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104-52; 109 Stat. 480), the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations may continue in existence solely for the purpose of performing any contract entered into under section 7(a) of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission Act (Public Law 104-169; 110 Stat. 1487). The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations shall terminate on the date of the completion of such contract.

(b) The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations and employees of the

Commission who are considered to be Federal employees under section 6(e) of Public Law 96-380 (42 U.S.C. 4276(e)) shall make contributions to and participate in Federal health insurance, life insurance, and retirement programs to the same extent and in the same manner as before the date of enactment of this section. The Commission shall make any such contributions from funds received through contracts.

Section 615 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (contained in Pub. L. No. 104-208) is amended by deleting "and "Community Oriented Policing Services Program"" and by deleting "and part Q of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968". The amendments made by this section should take effect upon enactment.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the staff is working desperately to wrap up a couple of final items. We feel like we need to go ahead and close because as long as we stay here, there will be other opportunities to try to get something cleared. I think we have done a very good job of moving some noncontroversial bills. We have had good cooperation on both sides.

So I do have just two or three more, and then we will wrap up.

MINING INSTITUTE LEGISLATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 501, H.R. 3249.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3249) to authorize appropriations for a mining institute to develop domestic technological capabilities for the recovery of minerals from the Nation's seabed, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD as if read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3249) was deemed read a third time, and passed.

DESIGNATION OF THE CLARION RIVER AS COMPONENT OF THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3568, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3568) to designate 51.7 miles of the Clarion River, located in Pennsylvania, as component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.